

Remarks of Martha Ferger, PO Box 8, Dryden, NY 13053

Public Hearing on HVHF in New York State  
Ithaca, NY December 1, 2011

I am Martha Ferger from the Village of Dryden, where I have lived for 56 years, raised 3 daughters, worked at many tasks in the community and pursued my career as a biochemist. My family and I have always been outdoors enthusiasts, especially enjoying hiking, skiing and canoeing on Fall Creek and the headwaters of the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers. I have always felt privileged to live in this area. No one loves it more than I do.

I do sympathize with the lease-holding farmers who see gas royalties as a means to upgrade their farming operations, as a help in at last making a decent living from their farm operations, or as a nest egg for retirement. However, these and other lease holders comprise only about 7 % of the adult residents of the Town of Dryden. (I am using Town of Dryden statistics here, but they are typical of many other parts of the state.) I believe that the farmers' hopes for an economic advantage are misplaced, failing to take account of the inevitable environmental damage that goes with fracking. Their hopes are also pumped up by the expensive advertising campaigns of the multinational corporations which would make billions of dollars at the expense of OUR resources and land and leave a ravaged landscape in their wake.

Up against this 7% of fracking boosters, we have the 93 % of the adult residents of the Town who stand have their water and air polluted, their property values severely damaged, their peace and quiet shattered, and many flourishing businesses in the area ruined beyond repair. I'm speaking of such businesses as organic farms, small CSAs, wineries, tourist and outdoor recreation facilities, etc). Most of us here are the 93%, pleading for protection against the 7%. We see an obvious parallel between our plea to reject fracking in our state and the "We are the 99% , Occupy Wall Street" protestors who are struggling against the corporate control of our government and our lives.